IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of using a wireless scheduling device to determine availability for a set of attendees, the method comprising:

communicating an availability request from a user to a server to view availability data for the set of attendees using the wireless scheduling device, the server having access to calendar data for each attendee and to an indication of whether the attendee has granted the user permission to view the attendee's availability data; and

receiving, by the wireless scheduling device from the server via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set corresponding to those attendees who have granted permission to view the attendee's availability data, wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee's schedule and busy space in an attendee's schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including:

displaying data derived from the availability data set on the wireless scheduling device.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the data derived from the availability data set is displayed as free time and busy time.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the availability request is communicated to the server via at least one of a network and the Internet.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the compact availability data set includes generically indicated free-busy information for the set of attendees as a group, as opposed to free-busy information for individual attendees.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the availability request includes an identifier for each attendee and a time period for which availability should be

determined.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the identifier for each attendee is an email address.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the calendar data for each attendee is stored in an availability database in communication with the server.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including:

scheduling an event based on the availability data set.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the event is scheduled using the wireless scheduling device.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further including:

updating the availability data for each attendee with the scheduled event.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

requesting permission to view the availability data for at least one attendee in the set of attendees.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein access to the availability data is requested via email over the Internet.

14. (Previously Presented) A system for determining schedule availability of a set of attendees using a wireless scheduling device, the system comprising:

a first process, running on the wireless scheduling device in communication with a server, for communicating an availability request from a user to the server to view availability data for the set of attendees, the server having access to calendar data for each attendee and to an indication of whether an attendee has granted permission to view the attendees' availability data;

a second process, running on the wireless scheduling device, for requesting permission to view the availability data; and

a third process, running on the wireless scheduling device, for receiving from the server via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set for those attendees who have granted permission to view the attendees'

availability data, wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee's schedule and busy space in an attendee's schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 14, further including:

a fourth process, running on the wireless scheduling device, for displaying data derived from the availability data set on the wireless scheduling device.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15, wherein the data derived from the availability data set is displayed as free time and busy time.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein the availability request is communicated to the server via at least one of a network and the Internet.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein the compact availability data set includes generically indicated free-busy information for the set of attendees as a group, as opposed to free-busy information for individual attendees.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 14, wherein the availability request includes an identifier for each attendee and a time period for which availability should be determined.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein the identifier for each attendee is an email address.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 14, wherein the calendar data for each attendee is stored in an availability database in communication with the server.

22. (Previously Presented) A wireless scheduling device comprising:

availability logic for creating an availability request to determine availability for a set of attendees;

transmission logic for transmitting the availability request to a server to view availability data for the set of attendees, the server having access to calendar data for each attendee and to an indication of whether an attendee has granted

permission to view the availability data; and

receiving logic for receiving from the server via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set for those attendees who have granted permission to view the availability data, wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee's schedule and busy space in an attendee's schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.

23. (Original) A wireless scheduling device according to claim 22, further including:

display logic for displaying data derived form the availability data set.

24. (Original) A wireless scheduling device according to claim 23, wherein the data derived from the availability data set is displayed as free time and busy time.

25. (Original) A wireless scheduling device according to claim 22, wherein the availability request includes an identifier for each of the attendees and a time period for which availability should be determined.

26. (Previously Presented) A wireless scheduling device according to claim 25, wherein the compact availability data set includes generically indicated free-busy information for the set of attendees as a group, as opposed to free-busy information for individual attendees.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of whether an attendee has granted permission to view the availability data of that attendee, is stored in an availability database in communication with the server.

28. (Previously Presented) A system for determining availability of a set of attendees using a wireless scheduling device, the system comprising:

an availability database for storing calendar data for a number of attendees; and

a server in communication with the database, the server adapted to receive an availability request from the wireless scheduling device to view availability data for a set of the attendees, search the calendar data for each attendee in the set to produce availability data for those attendees, and transmit to the

wireless scheduling device via a wireless communication channel, a compact availability data set, wherein the availability data set includes concise generic indicators to indicate at least one of free space in an attendee's schedule and busy space in an attendee's schedule, thereby enabling efficient transmission over the wireless communication channel.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

communicating a second availability request, wherein the second availability request is a request from the attendee to access the availability data of the user.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the attendee has granted the user permission to view the attendee's availability data only during a specified period of time.